

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 060847Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4521

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0615

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SN, MY, PFOR

SUBJ: NEW MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS SINGAPORE

1. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN AND SEVERAL OTHER GOM OFFICIALS PAID A BRIEF OVERNIGHT VISIT TO SINGAPORE FEBRUARY 5-6.

HUSSEIN ONN AND PARTY WERE GREATED AT PAYA LEBAR AIRPORT BY P.M. LEE AND SEVERAL OTHER CABINET MINISTERS. THEY LATER HELD DISCUSSIONS AT A POOLSIDE DINNER AT THE ISTANA HOSTED BY LEE. HUSSEIN ONN RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 6 FOLLOWING A MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ISTANA.

2. AS REPORTED IN NEW NATION FEBRUARY 6, HUSSEIN ONN TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE WAS "TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MR. LEE AND MYSELF AND TO DISCUSS AND TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS THAT MAY EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES". HE NOTED THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES "IN PARTICULAR THE COMMON PROBLEM

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OF TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION. IN OUR DISCUSSION WE ATTACHED

GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS A MEANS FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCE, THE ULTIMATE GUARANTEE OF SECURITY AND STABILITY. WE DISCUSSED AND LOOKED AT VARIOUS FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA, AND OBSERVED THAT COOPERATION IS GOING ON VERY WELL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MR. LEE AND I AGREED NOT ONLY TO CONTINUE BUT ALSO TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER SUCH COOPERATION."

3. DATUK HUSSEIN POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE WERE SUCH CLOSE NEIGHBORS THAT "IF ONE HAS A COLD AND SNEEZES THE OTHER WILL INEVITABLY CATCH COLD TOO." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN WEST MALAYSIA HUSSEIN ONN SAID "WE HAVE FACED OUR PROBLEMS IN THE PAST WITH SUCESS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE NOW TO DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO END THE INSURGENCY IN OUR COUNTRY."

4. WHEN ASKED A QUESTION ABOUT YOUNG MALAYSIAN CHINESE JOINING THE COMMUNISTS, HE SAID "CHINESE YOUTHS TAKE TO COMMUNISM NOT BECAUSE OF ANY GOVERNMENT POLICY, BUT AS IN EVERY COUNTRY YOUTHS DO GO ASTRAY. THIS IS A SIMILAR PROBLEM."
HOLDRIDGE

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